(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to wipe out this disease from the State;

(c) the estimate of affected livestock in the State since 1980; and

(d) whether Government have taken any concrete steps in this regard; if so,the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Foot and Mouth Disease is endemic in India including the State of Jammu and Kashmir. In order to reduce the incidence of the disease, the susceptible livestock population is subjected to vaccination and in the event of an outbreak necessary treatment is provided. As per records of the Department, during last seven years (1994—2000), there has been 194 outbreaks affecting 17223 animals in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Government of India provides funds to the State through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely "Assistance to States for Control of Animal Disease". Under the Foot and Mouth Disease Control Component of the Scheme there is a provision to vaccinate susceptible high yielding indigenous, exotic and cross bred cattle belonging to weaker section of the society. Cost of the vaccine is shared by the Central Government, State Government and beneficiary on 25:25:50 basis.

Agricultural Technology information centres in Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh

609. SHRI ANIL SHARMA:
SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Agricultural Technology information centres set up in Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra district-wise;

(b) the details of expenditure incurred by the Central Government for the said work in those States during the last three years; and

(c) the necessary action taken by Government to impart training to farmers so that they can get knowledge of the said Technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have sanctioned establishment of three Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATIC) in Himachal Pradesh, *viz.* Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Kangra; Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan; and Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI), Shimla and five ATICs in Maharashtra, *viz.* Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani; Dr. Punjab Rao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola; Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Ratnagiri; Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Ahmednagar; and Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur.

(b) During the last three years, an amount of Rs. 115.21 lakhs and Rs. 185.02 lakhs have been released by the Council to Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra, respectively for the purpose.

(c) The Council have already established Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) to impart training to farmers in various districts of the States. During the last one year, 13,082 and 39,088 farmers including farmwomen and rural youths have been trained by the KVKs of Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra, respectively.

Improvement of crop insurance policy

†610. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to improve the present crop insurance policy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken so far by the Central Government to improve and strengthen the condition of Indian farmers who provide foodgrains to the country?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.